



PRESS RELEASE

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Population of Israel on the Eve of 2008 – 7.2 Million

- **75.6% of the population of Israel are Jews, 20% are Arabs and 4.4% are Others¹.**
- **During 2007 the population of Israel grew by approximately 1.7%, a slightly lower percentage than that of 2006 (1.8%).**
- **18,000 New Immigrants arrived in Israel during 2007.**
- **There were approximately 149,400 babies born in 2007.**

On December 31, 2007, Israel's population was estimated at approximately 7,241 million residents² - 5,472 million (75.6%) are Jews, 1,449 (20%) are Arabs, and 320,000 are Others (4.4%). The above is based on temporary estimates compiled at the Central Bureau of Statistics.

During 2007 the population of Israel grew by approximately 1.7%, a slightly lower percentage than that of 2006 and 2005 (1.8%).

In total, approximately 124,000 people were added to the population of Israel in 2007. Of that, 88% were the result of natural increase (births minus deaths) and the rest (approximately 12%) of the immigration balance³.

Slightly more than 18,000 New Immigrants arrived in Israel during 2007 (not including Immigrating Citizens)⁴, a relatively small number compared with previous years: 2005 (21,000) and 2006 (19,000).

There were 149,000 babies were born during 2007.

¹ Population estimates do not include the foreign population residing in Israel.

² **Others** – Immigrants and their families who are not registered as Jews at the Ministry of the Interior (non-Arab Christians and residents not classified by religion).

³ **Immigration Balance** – The difference between the number of those arriving in Israel as a result of immigration or Family Reunification, and the number of those departing Israel for the purpose of residing abroad for longer than 12 months.

⁴ **Immigrating Citizen** – those born to Israeli citizens while they were abroad, who enter Israel for the purpose of settling here.

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For explanations and clarifications regarding the contents of this Press Release,
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